

the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

To the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, ELIJAH CUMMINGS of Maryland; to the Committee on the Judiciary, MAXINE WATERS of California; and to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, ELIJAH CUMMINGS of Maryland.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that he will take ten 1-minutes on each side.

#### DELAY TRUMPETS SPENDING BILL

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, last night the Appropriations Committee did a great job in working with the President and forcing him to be fiscally responsible. By getting an agreement to curtail spending in the 1996 omnibus appropriations bill, Republicans were finally able to cut back on Washington spending, and I am very proud of that.

Today we will save the taxpayers \$43 billion from last year's spending levels. We zero out 200 programs. We will keep on track to a balanced budget. And, most important, we will take a giant leap toward fiscal sanity.

Mr. Speaker, the American people put the Republicans in the majority because they wanted more responsible Government from their Congress, and we have delivered on our promises. My friends, this is the biggest taxpayer savings since the end of the Second World War, and we did not raise one dime of taxes.

By passing this spending bill, we take a giant step forward for the American family, and I just want to commend Chairman LIVINGSTON and his committee for his patience and great work on this legislation.

#### LET US PASS A MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, the radical right of the Republicans is at it again. Although the vast majority of the American citizens, the majority of the Members of this House, the majority of the Members of the other body, and the President of the United States all say we should have an increase in the minimum wage. Well, imperial Speaker GINGRICH and the Presidential nominee of the Republican Party, BOB DOLE, say, "No, we are not even going to let you vote on it." The minimum wage is presently at a 40-year low as far as buying power. They will not even

let us have a vote on it. That is the radical right of the Republican Party.

I say let the House vote on a minimum wage. Let us vote on it now. Let the other body vote on a minimum wage. Let us vote on it now. What are you afraid of? You are afraid of giving the working poor a little more money for their work. That is what you are afraid of. You do not want to do that. You want to give the wealthy a big tax cut. You say that is who needs the money. I say let us pass a minimum wage.

#### THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, it is fascinating, the gentleman from Missouri was not here 2 years ago asking to help the working poor with an increase in the minimum wage, because he had the House controlled by Democrats, the Senate controlled by Democrats, and the White House. They were not concerned about them then.

Let me tell you what the Wall Street Journal Review and Outlook call them in 1996. Remember when Bill Clinton claimed he was a new Democrat precisely because he did not favor a higher minimum wage? Time Magazine, by Michael Kramer, from an earlier speech by Bill Clinton: "It"—raising the minimum wage—"is the wrong way to raise incomes of low-wage earners." I think the President was right then. I think he is right now.

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The increase in the minimum wage by the President's own chief economist will cost low-income earners 100,000 jobs. That is not the way to raise the income of workers. Cutting taxes is.

#### AMERICA SUPPORTS RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, again I do not understand what the argument is about which Congress tried or did not try to raise the minimum wage. The bottom line is we know now we have a majority in both Houses, mostly Democrats, but also enough Republicans, so that we could pass the minimum wage if it was only brought up for a vote on the floor right now.

The problem is that the Republican leadership, Speaker GINGRICH and the others, do not want to bring it up for a vote. They had a meeting yesterday and all the newspapers today say they refuse to bring it up for a simple up or down vote. The reason they will not bring it up is because they know it will pass.

The American people favor this, four out of five in all the recent polls, and the majority in the House of Rep-

resentatives and the Senate and the President of the United States. So why not bring it up?

Very simple: They do not want to do it. Instead, they have come up with some bureaucratic cockamamie proposal to essentially use a government subsidy to help certain families, but not everyone.

Why in the world are we talking about a government subsidy to employers so that they do not have to pay a higher wage, a living wage? It makes no sense.

#### CHANGING THE WAY GOVERNMENT IS DONE IN WASHINGTON

(Mrs. CUBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, today we will end months of intense negotiation with the administration on the omnibus appropriations bill, which provides funding for the Departments of Commerce, Interior, State, Labor, Justice, Housing and Urban Development, Veterans, and Health and Human Services.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has achieved historic savings in the Federal budget. We have saved taxpayers \$43 billion, resulting in the lowest projected deficit in 14 years and the single largest cut in government since World War II.

Please remember, the President does not spend one penny; the Congress spends the money, and this Republican Congress is responsible for cutting the deficit \$43 billion, keeping our word, and changing the way government is done in Washington.

#### BACKWARD ECONOMICS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, see if this makes any sense: Uncle Sam gives billions of dollars to Russia in foreign aid; Russia then uses American money to build weapons. Uncle Sam then gives billions of dollars to China through the most-favored-nation trade program; China then buys weapons from Russia with money made in America.

Now, China makes money, Russia makes money, and, meanwhile, to stay afloat, America borrows money from Japan. America then uses that borrowed money from Japan to protect Japan and to protect Japanese oil in the Persian Gulf. That is right, Japan gets 95 percent of their oil from the Persian Gulf. Meanwhile, back in America, Americans are not only paying higher fuel taxes, they are now paying \$2 for a gallon of gasoline.

Beam me up here. Somebody in Washington, DC, does not need to see any more economists, they need to visit a proctologist. Folks, this thing is all screwed up.

I yield back the balance of all these Btu's.